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Mr. Patrick McLoughlin
Inspector,
Office of Environmental Enforcement,
Environmental Protection Agency,
Dublin

3rd August 2021

Water Source issues at Cooley Distillery-EPA Licence Register No. P0826-02

Dear Mr. McLoughlin,

As established in our previous correspondence on 9th October 2020, Cooley Distillery are experiencing severe source process water supply issues, resulting in lengthy stoppages and significantly reduced production rates. This has become an urgent issue for the Distillery. The Distillery cannot be operated in a steady-state due to the unpredictability of process water source which means the distillery cannot meet the required output levels. It has resulted in instabilities in process control, difficulty balancing optimum process conditions and, most recently, in an interruption to and cessation of distillery production.

Since then, Cooley Distillery have constructed a new additional water tank to provide an adequate buffer ahead of the manufacturing process.

Cooley Distillery have also engaged Pamila Bartley from Hydro-G and Briody Well Drilling Ltd and have drilled 6No. test Boreholes with the Cooley Distillery site boundary. Out of the 6 test boreholes, Cooley Distillery are expecting to upgrade 3No. boreholes into production wells.

Cooley Distillery will continue to carry out yield tests on these boreholes and are confident that these production wells combined with the additional water storage capacity will provide a sufficient quantity of water to allow the distillery to manufacture without stoppages.

However, the drilling works are not expected to be completed until mid-August and it will take additional time to apply to Louth County Council for planning permission for the production wells and further time to connect these wells into the existing infrastructure. Cooley Distillery expect that this will take an additional 5No. months.

Therefore, we propose to continue to use abstracted cooling water for process purposes on a temporary basis for a very short extended period of time. We propose to only use abstracted cooling water for this purpose for a temporary period of a further 5 months, up until 31st December 2021.

If we encounter any delays in, for example, obtaining any consents or clearances that may be required for the long-term solution, we are happy to review this matter with you again. In the meantime, the situation is quite critical as regards production, and we need to implement the above-mentioned short-term plan imminently in order to deal with the water supply issues.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Douglas